

Message Text

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44

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 MBFR-03 AEC-11 SCI-06 NASA-04 IO-13

SAJ-01 RSR-01 /168 W

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R 041407Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8228

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE QUITO 4066

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EC, FR

SUBJECT: GOE PROTESTS REMARKS OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR
DEFENDING FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS

1. ON JULY 25 THE AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE DEFENDED THE FRENCH POSITION ON NUCLEAR TESTING ON TELEVISION IN QUITO. HE SAID THAT FRANCE NEEDED TO BE ABLE TO DEFEND ITSELF. FRANCE, HE ADDED, FAVORED THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THE DESTRUCTION OF EXISTING WEAPONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONTROLS; BUT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THOSE GOALS ARE ACHIEVED, FRANCE WOULD CONTINUE ITS PROGRAM OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT. HE CONTINUED THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY FOREIGN PRESSURE IN THIS MATTER. IN REFERRING TO THE PROTESTS AGAINST THESE TESTS, THE AMBASSADOR ASSERTED THAT THEY WERE UNFOUNDED AND UNJUSTIFIED BECAUSE FRANCE HAD TAKEN GREATER PRECAUTIONS THAN ANY OTHER POWERS AND THAT THE FALLOUT HAD NOT BEEN SIGNIFICANT OR DANGEROUS. HE ENDED SAYING THAT THIS POSITION ON FALLOUT WAS SUPPORTED BY A SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE HELD IN GUAYAQUIL LAST YEAR.

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2. THE GOE WHICH HAD FORMALLY PROTESTED LAST MONTH AGAINST THE FRENCH TESTS, REACTED TO THIS TELEVISION APPEARANCE WITH ANNOYANCE. THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER CALLED THE AMBASSADOR IN TO PROTEST THE SPEECH AND PARTICULARLY THOSE PARTS WHICH TENDED TO REFUTE THE DECLARED POSITION OF THE GOE ON THE TESTS. THE ACTING MINISTER TOOK SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO THE AMBASSADOR'S REFERENCE TO THE GUAYAQUIL MEETING ASSERTING THAT HE HAD TWISTED WHAT THE GROUP HAD ACTUALLY SAID. FYI: IN READING OVER THE MINISTRY'S PRESS RELEASE, IT IS APPARENT TO US THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS CORRECT IN HIS USE OF THE GUAYAQUIL MEETING, AND IT IS THE GOE WHICH IS ATTEMPTING TO READ THINGS INTO IT. END FYI

3. COMMENT: BY HIS USE OF THE GUAYAQUIL MEETING, THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR EVIDENTLY PUT THE GOE IN AN EMBARRASSING SITUATION (AS HE MAY HAVE IN HIS COMMENTS ABOUT REJECTING FOREIGN PRESSURE SINCE THEY TEND TO EQUATE MORALLY THE GOE POSITION ON LOS WITH THE FRENCH ONE ON NUCLEAR TESTING). THIS EMBARRASSMENT PROBABLY ACCOUNTS FOR THE GOE'S OVERREACTION TO THE SPEECH.
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